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LBCC gets grants for 'green,' construction training

By Kevin Butler, Staff Writer

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LONG BEACH - Long Beach City College has been awarded about \$2.4 million in grants to train students to work in the "green" transportation and construction industries.

The three grants will help the college train about 400 workers over the next 18 months to handle jobs in the green transportation and construction sectors.

The college also is partnering with other agencies in an effort to place the students in internships, apprenticeships or jobs.

Two of the grants relate to green building programs, the practice in the construction industry of building or retrofitting structures more efficiently to save energy and water.

One grant is for workers who already have experience in the industry, but who want to learn advanced skills, such as how to install a solar roof panel, said Gail Schwander, LBCC dean of work force development.

Another grant is designed to provide novice workers with skills in the green building field so that they can find entry-level jobs, she said.

The third grant, relating to green transportation, will train unemployed and underemployed students to work with alternative-fuel vehicles.

The grant money includes a mixture of state funds and federal stimulus funds. The college faces an 18-month timeframe because the federal stimulus funds must be spent by that date, Schwander said.

Classes will start in November. LBCC partners pledged \$4.2 million in matching funds as part of the programs.

Those interested in the classes are asked to contact Rola Halawanji at rhalawanji@lbcc.edu or 562-938-3148.

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